



VIRGINIA SPEAR FISHING RESTRICTIONS

Anyone fishing with a spear or gig in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay, the saltwater, tidal tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, and Virginia's Territorial Sea needs a saltwater fishing license [Code 28.2 – 302.1].

It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest fish for commercial purposes by any method of spear fishing. [Regulation 4 VAC 20-995-40].

It shall be unlawful for any person to spear or gaff any striped bass [4 VAC 20-252-30].

It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or possess any sturgeon [28.2 – 303].

It shall be unlawful to possess a lobster that has an outer shell that has been speared [4 VAC 20-110-30].

American eel

Minimum size limit: 6 inches
Possession limit: 50 per person

Amberjack

Minimum size limit: 32 inches
Possession limit: 2 per person

Black drum

Minimum size limit: 16 inches

Black sea bass

Minimum size limit: 12 inches
Possession limit: 25 per person
Open seasons: Jan. 1 through Sept. 1, and
Sept. 16 through Nov. 30

Bluefish

Possession limit: 10 per person

Cobia

Minimum size limit: 37 inches
Possession limit: 1 per person

Gray trout (Weakfish)

No limits

King mackerel

Minimum size limit: 27 inches
Possession limit: 3 per person

Red drum (Channel bass, Redfish)

Minimum size limit: 18 inches
Maximum size: 26 inches
Possession limit: 3 per person

Scup (Porgy)

Minimum size limit: 8 inches
Possession limit: 50 per person

Shad (American shad)

Unlawful to possess if taken from Chesapeake Bay & tributaries

Shark

Possession limit: 1 per person

Spadefish

Possession limit: 4 per person

Spanish mackerel

Minimum size limit: 14 inches
Possession limit: 15 per person

Speckled trout (Spotted seatrout)

Minimum size limit: 14 inches

Summer flounder (Fluke)

Virginia Tidal Waters

Minimum size limit: 16.5 inches
Possession limit: 6 per person
Closed season: None after 2/28/05

Virginia Potomac River Tributaries

Same as established for the main-stem Potomac River by PRFC
(www.prfc.state.va.us)

Tautog

Minimum size limit: 14 inches
Possession limit: 7 per person

February, 2005